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Letter

G.O. No. 1517. Education

Dated 9.6.1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

MINISTER
*
EDUCATION.

New Delhi, the 16th March 1948.

My dear Chettiar,

In the Central Assembly a Cut Motion was moved to discuss the policies of certain Provincial Governments, who, it was alleged, were discriminating against certain castes and communities in some educational institutions. It was pointed out that as the Centre was giving grants to provinces for educational development, the Centre should take action against such policies. Madras was quoted as a Province where there were still seats reserved in educational institutions for Brahmins and Non-Brahmins, and it was pointed out that this was against the policy of the present Central Government. I shall be glad if you will let me know in detail what is the exact position.

Yours sincerely,

A.K.Azad

The Hon'ble Shri T.S.Avinashalingam Chettiar,
Minister for Education,
Government of Madras,
M a d r a s.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

Post copy of telephonic message dated the 5th June 1948.

From
The Director of Public Instruction.
Madras.

To
The Assistant Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Ref: Your telephonic message No.92325/7/47-A .Education dated 11th May 1948 regarding community wise number of admissions made in the Government Arts and Engineering Colleges during the years 1944--45, 1945-46 and 1946-47.

A statement showing the required particulars is herewith furnished. Particulars in respect of the Government College for Women, Guntur and Government College for Muslim Women, Madras are not furnished since the former came under the control of Government only last year and the latter has since been closed.

Sd/ for Director of Public Instruction.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ADMISSIONS (COMMUNITY-WAR) MADE IN THE JUNIO CLASSES IN THE GOVERNMENT ARTS AND ENGINEERING COLLEGES DURING THE YEARS 1944-1945: 1945--46: and 1946-1947:

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No. Name of College.	Brahmans.	Non-Brahmans.	Indian Christians	Muslims.	Europeans & Anglo-Indians.	Harijans.	Others.	Total.
Government Arts College, Rajahmundry.								
1944-45	112	57	1	8	...	4	...	182
1945-46	99	63	4	9	...	4	...	179
1946-47	161	102	3	8	...	5	...	279
Government Arts College, Anantapur.								
1944-45	85	103	20	20	...	2	....	230
1945-46	118	130	11	28	...	9	...	296
1946-47	165	142	13	19	..	7	1	347
Presidency Collge., Madras								
1944-45	319	193	31	22	4	...	...	569
1945-46	321	237	30	28	2	...	...	618
1946-47	369	217	62	14	3	7	...	672
Government Muslim College Madras.								
1944-45	15	13	9	126	...	1	...	164
1945-46	17	22	7	174	...	..	...	220
1946-47	35	36	17	217	...	1	...	306
Government College Kumbakonam								
1944-45	179	111	11	12	...	..	...	313
1945-46	195	105	8	12	...	..	...	320
1946-47	223	146	10	7	...	1	...	387
Government Victoria College, Palghat.								
1944-45	164	234	20	22	...	17	...	457
1945-46	204	192	18	18	...	28	...	460
1946-47	248	324	22	13	....	48	1	656
Government College Coimbatore.								
1944-45	70	103	19	9	...	3	..	204
1945-46	69	135	14	10	...	2	...	230
1946-47	139	180	23	6	...	3	...	351
Government Brennen College, Tellicherry:								
1944-45	11	110	5	17	...	..	...	143
1945-46	16	119	4	24	..	..	..	163
1946-47	14	134	7	19	..	..	..	172
Government College Mangalore.								
1944-45	53	70	11	1	...	1	...	136
1945-46	74	60	6	7	...	3	...	150
1946-46	62	64	7	7	...	2	...	142
Queen Mary's College Madras.								
1944-45	45	42	22	7	11	3	1	131
1945-46	90	54	31	13	11	2	1	202
1946-47	88	76	29	4	6	4	1	208
Engineering Colleges								
Engineering College Guindy.								
1944-45	26	57	13	13	3	4	3	119
1945-46	34	49	13	12	2	10	4	124
1946 47	36	48	17	13	5	4	2	125

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Name of the College.	Brahmans.	Non-Brahmans.	Indian christians.	Muslims.	European & Anglo-Indians	Harijans.	Others	Total.
Engineering College, Cocanada.								
1946-47 (Only)	28	63	4	7	...	3	...	105
Arthus Hope College of Technology, Coimbatore.								
(1944-45)	21	41	5	6	1	2	..	76
1945-46	21	54	12	5	1	1	2	96
1946-47								
Engineering College, Anantapur.								
1946-47 only.	12	27	3	7	...	1	...	50

Sd/-xxxxxx,
for Director of Public Instruction.

Education and Public Health(A) Departme

Letter/Ms.No.1517 Education dated 9-6-1948.

To

The Secretary to theGovernment of India,
Ministry of Education,
New Delhi.

Sir,

Alleged discrimination against certain castes and communities in Madras Educational Institutions.

With reference to the letter of the Hon'ble Mr. Abdul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, addressed to the Hon'ble Sri T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, Government of Madras, dated 16th March 1948, on the subject noted above I am directed to state as follows:

The ideal which this Government has in view and which in fact, any civilised Government must have in view, is to make education at all stages available freely and without any difficulty to all those who seek them. In fact, that is the position obtaining in this Province in the Elementary and High School stages and nobody has so far had to suffer for want of opportunities of education at those stages.

The difficulty comes in only with regard to Arts and Science Colleges and Technical Colleges. Unfortunately in these spheres, it is not possible to provide educational facilities to all that want them. It is not that any effort is wanting on the part of this Government but only that they are not able to find the finance for doing so. The struggle for seats in these colleges is great because they are the institutions the training in which opens out avenues of employment to young men and women who pass through them. So naturally, quite a number of people want admissions. The agitation made against the present system of admission is by one community, namely, the Brahmins and it is out of self-interest, this agitation is being made. They form about three per cent of the population and probably contribute no more thatn that per centage to the revenues. They are a small highly educated but exclusive community. This Government agree that they are entitled to all the education that they ask for subject to the needs of the other classes. Because the Brahmins have been a highly educated class, they have been occupying all positions of importance in public service so far. This naturally makes the other communities also go in for education and they want to be more and more educated. It was this that has been responsible for the clamour from other communities who form 97 per cent of the population for greater educational facilities to the or at least for a more wide-spread and broad-based distribution of the educational opportunities to all the classes. The Brahmins happen to be the most vital population controlling the press also in many places and a one-sided agitation has been set up that Brahmins have been discriminated against in admissions, to colleges. That cry is unfounded.

To meet the needs of social justice and to give a chance to backward communities also, as early as 1922, the Government of this Province appointed Committees for admission to various Government Colleges. In 1938, Rajaji abolished those Committee Though elaborate rules were not then laid down to regulate admission to the Colleges, it is interesting to observe that, in the order abolishing the Committees, the following instructions of Rajaji were incorporated:-

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> " The Principals of the Government Colleges are requested, while making selections for admission to all classes in their colleges, to exercise the greatest care in seeing that due representation is given to non-Brahmins, to all minority communities, to Muhammadans, to scheduled classes and to women, The fact that candidates from backward communities do not possess high marks as candidates from forward communities should not stand in the way of deserving applicants from such communities being given due consideration. In the case, for example, of the Scheduled classes and of Muslim women very few of whom ever reach a collegiate standard, special consideration should be shown. In cases of doubt the Principals of Colleges, may, if they consider it necessary refer the case to the Director of Public Instruction for decision".

In respect of Medical Colleges, however, regular rules were framed to govern admissions. Those rules provide, interalia that "due regard should be paid to the admission of students from backward and unrepresented communities and the principle prescribed in the service rules for recruitment to the service should be kept in view in this regard."

In 1940, the whole matter was reviewed. The Government while emphasising the instructions issued to the Principals in 19 ordered as follows:-

> "Government think that colleges which provide training to fit students to enter a profession and earn their ow living, without special reference to Government service should not be treated, for the purpose of admission, in the same way as Government service and that admission t such colleges should be in proportion to the extent to which the communities wish to take advantage of the facilities offered. "

That order was cancelled in 1942 and, at the same time, the Director of Public Instruction and the Surgeon-General were informed that the instructions issued in 1938 should be rigidly adhered to.

In 1943, the Government laid down that the total number of seats available for admission in the Engineering and in the Medical Colleges should be distributed among the various liguistic groups of districts in proportion to the population. The mode of distribution of seats was made applicable to the Veterinary and the Agricultural Colleges too, subsequently.

In 1946, Sri Prakasam introduced a "rule of merit" for 20% of the seats and His Excellency the Government agreed to the working of the rule for a period of one year only. After the introduction of that rule, a very large increase in the number of students in the colleges, belonging to the Brahmin community, was noticed; that increase led to an agitation in this Province from other communities that he Brahmins were introducing the thin end of the wedge and were trying to monopolize all educational opportunities for themselves. The rule was not therefore continued beyond one year.

In 1947, orders were issued to the effect that for admission to the Engineering Colleges, communal proportions laid down in the service Rules should as far be followed as far as practicable about the same time, the communal proportions in the Servi Rules were made applicable for admission to the Agricultural a the Veterinary Colleges also.

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In brief, the position now is that no rigid communal proportion is laid down for admission to Arts Colleges but that the general instructions given in 1938 hold the field; and that, in regard to all Professional Colleges, the communal proportions prescribed in the Service Rules are followed, in addition to the allotment of seats on a linguistic basis. A set of the orders in force is enclosed.

The Government of India will see from the figures supplied that the Brahmin community has not after all suffered as badly as they want to make out. Though they are three percent of the population, they got in 1947-48 34.93 get 37 per cent of the seats in Arts colleges B.A.,34.3% of the seats in the Intermedi classes. 21.4% in the Engineering Colleges, 18% in the Medical Colleges, 25.6% in the Agricultural Colleges and 51.1% in the Veterinary College. It is not as though this Government have al of a sudden shut out the opportunities of education to Brahmins. The Government are only trying to distribute it as widely as possible. The cry of the advanced communities of communalism in educational institutions is only a form of black-mail, trying get all facliities for themselves. After all, these are days of democracy and non Government drawing its support from the peo can afford to ignore the demand of the 97 per cent of the people who are educationally backward, but who pay practically all the taxes, for a fair distribution of educational opportunities. They can do so only at their peril.

It cannot be that education ean be given only to people who score top marks. Marks are not the only criterion for efficiency. Consistent with the student's capacity to imbibe and mak use of the knowledge imparted to him, educational opportunities should be broad-based and made available to as large a section of the community as possible. It cannot be the monopoly and close preserve of a small highly advanced and exclusive section of the community. As already stated, this Government want that happy sta of making education available to all who want it. But they are unable to do it because of financial difficulties. Till that happens, the system in Vogue here which amounts really to aration-ing of a commodity in short supply, is the best under the circumst-ces. If the Government of India re prepared to bear the expenses for opening more Arts and Science Colleges and Technical Colleges this Government have no objection at all to throw them open on the basis of marks alone and nothing else.

This Gover ment want to make it clear that there is no discrimination whatsoever against any community. A com-munity cannot complain if it gets more than 30% of the seats through it forms only three per cent of the population. If, in spite of it, it raises a hue and cry, it raises only suspicion in the other communities. After all, even in the technical colleges, for communities other than Brahmins, this Government insist upon boys having a high standard of proficiency before they can be admitted. They do not want to bring down the level of the more advanced communities, but want to raise the level of the backward communities . That is the principle of admissions into Government colleges.

This Government hope that this fairly exhaustive letter should dispel any doubts which the Government of India might have had as a result of the agitation of some interested people into thinking that this Government are discriminating agains any community.

In this Connection it may be mentioned also that the Government have just received a representation from the Muslim

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Muslim Educational Association of Southern India, Madras, impressing upon them the need for the retention of the present rule of reservation of seats for the various communities.

Yours Obedient Servant.

Sd/-xxxxxxx,
6-5-1948.

The draft may issue with the following added at the end:

"This Government would like to point out also that these rules apply only to Government Colleges. This Government have not laid down any rules for admission of the various communities in aided institutions though they know that in certain institutions conducted by the advanced communities such as Brahmins and other, nearly 90% of the seats have been reserved for their own community in spite of the fact that grants are paid to them by Government.

It will be seen therefore that these measures this Government have taken are only with a view to meet the ends of social justice and to provide for opportunities for communities which have been kept under a disadvantage from the educational point of view formany centuries".

Sd/-xxxxxx,
T.S.S.
H.M.(Edn.)
9 6-1948.

/True copy/

S. Jagadeesan 16/6
Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office.

NG.

14/6/74